

April 20, 2004

The Montana Standard
PO Box 627
Butte MT 59703

Independent Record
PO Box 4249
Helena, MT 59604

Townsend Star
PO
Townsend, MT 59644

Box

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RE: Reclamation Bond Release Legal Notice

Dear Editor:

Please publish the following legal notice in the next issue of your newspaper:

LEGAL NOTICE

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is proposing to release the reclamation bond for the reclaimed Keating Project mine and cyanide leach facility near Radersburg, MT.

The DEQ issued a Small Miner Cyanide Permit to Peter Antonioli on October 10, 1990. The permit allowed the processing of ore mined from a historic open pit, to be leached with a cyanide solution in a 30' X 80' concrete vat. Solution from the vat was collected in a 60' X 80' pregnant pond, processed for metal recovery in carbon leach columns inside a steel building, and recycled for further use in a 50' X 70' barren solution pond. Both ponds were double lined with 40 mil PVC. Spent ore was neutralized in the concrete vat and offloaded onto a bermed, PVC lined discard site. Antonioli mined and leached through 1996. Beginning in 1997, leaching was completed and reclamation begun. Between 1998 and 2002, residual solution in the ponds was neutralized and applied on adjacent grassland by sprinkler irrigation, the ponds and vat were filled and graded, previously saved soil was replaced on all disturbed areas and seeded to a mix of

native and introduced wheatgrasses. The steel building will remain, to be used as a shop by the landowner. The site is on private ground in section 18: T5N R1E, Broadwater County.

Total disturbance at the mine and process facility was 4.5 acres. DEQ currently holds a reclamation bond of \$6,500 for reclamation of the ore processing facilities. Two monitoring wells downgradient of the site have consistently shown no detectable cyanide in laboratory samples. DEQ inspected on April 12, 2004, found the site to be properly graded and well vegetated, and has concluded that the site is ready for final bond release.

Reclamation bond release procedures are set forth in Section 82-4-338, MCA, of the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act. DEQ is publishing the final bond release determination in local newspapers and issuing a press release seeking company and public comments. The company and/or the public will have 30 days to comment and/or request a hearing. The company or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by the final bond release may request a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review within the 30-day comment period.

Information on the final bond release determination can be obtained by contacting the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau, P. O. Box 200901, 1520 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620-0901, or by calling Pete Strazdas at (406) 444-4962 or e-mail at pstrazdas@state.mt.us. A decision on the final bond release determination will be issued within 30 days of the close of the public comment period or after the hearing, if requested.

Please attach an affidavit of publication, with an original tear sheet for the run date, to your invoice and send them to:

Department of Environmental Quality
Environmental Management Bureau
1520 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena MT 59620-0901

Please charge to DEQ account number: RC # 5315, DOC # EMB 503198.

Sincerely,

Pete Strazdas
SMES and Exploration Program Supervisor
Permitting and Compliance Division
file: 43-077

PS/jac